

# DHS Science and Technology Directorate Silicon Valley Innovation Program – Enhancing Innovation for Homeland Security

## Innovation is Critical for Homeland Security

Threats to our nation's security are complex and constantly evolving. DHS needs innovative solutions to address key technical gaps and operational needs.

Part of the Homeland Security Innovation Program, the **Silicon Valley Innovation Program (SVIP)** is keeping pace with the innovation community to tackle the hardest problems faced by DHS's operational missions. The SVIP expands DHS S&T's reach to find new technologies that strengthen national security with the goal of reshaping how government, entrepreneurs and industry work together to find cutting-edge solutions. The SVIP, based in California's Silicon Valley, reaches out to innovation communities across the nation and around the world to harness the commercial R&D ecosystem for government applications, co-invest in ideas, and accelerate transition-to-market.

## How the SVIP Works

The SVIP issued the **Innovation Other Transaction Solicitation (OTS)** in December 2015. Under the Innovation OTS umbrella, technical topic calls are released seeking solutions for specific mission requirements. Calls are open for up to one year, and applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, typically within 30-60 days. If an application proceeds beyond the initial review, companies provide a 15-minute oral pitch and a go/no-go decision regarding funding will be made that day. After selection, an award will be in place in approximately 30 days.

The SVIP awards up to \$800k over 24 months across four phases. Companies can receive up to \$200k per phase and each phase lasts three to six months.

- **Phase 1: Demo proof of concept**
- **Phase 2: Demo pilot-ready prototype**
- **Phase 3: Pilot-test in operations**
- **Phase 4: Test in various operational scenarios**

At the end of each phase, the SVIP technical reviewers will decide if the solution meets the requirements to proceed to the next stage. Companies can decide to proceed if the DHS use cases continue to be a product/market fit.

## Providing Value to DHS and Start-Ups

### For DHS, the SVIP:

- Increases the variety of technological solutions to support the DHS mission;
- Supports all DHS operators, from securing our borders to facilitating travel and commerce; and
- Provides a mechanism to rapidly develop and assess a solution in an operational environment.

### For start-ups, the SVIP:

- Simplifies the traditional government procurement process for start-ups and entrepreneurs who have seen barriers to entry and never considered the government as a transition partner;
- Buys down investor risk;
- Offers no dilution of ownership; and
- Provides access to pilots and feedback in an operational setting.



## Key Accomplishments to date

- Awareness built with more than 1000 start-ups, accelerators and venture capitalists;
- Five Topic Calls published: Internet of Things (IoT) Security, K9 Wearables, sUAS Capabilities, Enhancements to the Global Travel Assessments System (GTAS), and Enhancing CBP Airport Passenger Processing
- Received 67 applications
- Five IoT Security Awards in FY16

